



News Release

UNITED STATES AIR FORCE

910TH Airlift Wing (AFRC)

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

"910th completes busy, productive year 2002"

DATE: January 9, 2003

NUMBER: 03-01-01

YOUNGSTOWN AIR RESERVE STATION, OHIO – 2002 proved to be yet another successful year here at the 910th Airlift Wing. The wing's primary purpose is to train Air Force Reservists to be ready to serve anytime, anywhere. These men and women come from all walks of life and occupations such as postal workers, doctors, GM employees, policemen, firemen, and people from many other professional backgrounds who span not only the Mahoning Valley, but much of Ohio and Western Pennsylvania.

Last year, Air Force Reserve aircrew members flew nearly every day of the week to include training weekends aboard the 16 C-130H Hercules aircraft assigned to the 910th Airlift Wing. These aircrew members continue practicing low-level flying operations as well as other types of flying training. Over 500 "touch and go sorties" were flown for pilot proficiency training on the 9,000-foot runway shared with the Youngstown-Warren Regional Airport, as well as 1,500 practice landings on the 3,500-foot assault landing strip owned by the 910th.

The Youngstown-Warren Regional Airport provides an outstanding training location for the 910th Airlift Wing C-130s as well as other non-Youngstown based military C-130 cargo planes and KC-135 air refueling planes from Air Force Reserve and Air National Guard units spanning across the United States. The recent \$40 million airport improvement project, completed by the airport, provides an airfield perfectly suited to meet the demands of the 910th fleet and the other types of aviation activity using the airport. In addition, since the airspace is not congested, and is readily available for military air operations at the airport, the 910th and other units highly regard the airport as an important training location. The 910th maintains a close working relationship with the airport and supports it with a full-time fire, crash and rescue force from the 910th Fire Department.

Training missions also included joint operations with Army, Navy, and Marine Corps paratroop jumpers anywhere from Fort Bragg, N.C. on the East coast to North Island Naval Air Station, San Diego, Calif., on the West coast. In addition, the 910th provided a capability for disease control during mosquito and sand flea aerial spray missions in the Southeastern United States.

Last year, about 300 men and women with specialties such as aircraft maintenance, security, transportation, civil engineering, intelligence, avionics, public affairs, culinary arts, and supply have deployed in support of contingency operations all over the world to places such as Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Turkey, Puerto Rico, Spain and many other countries. These missions required the reservists to be away from their families and full-time jobs for 13,804 days to support their active duty Air Force counterparts as part of the Aerospace Expeditionary Force.

Altogether, 910th C-130 aircrew members completed over 2,600 flying missions for 5,833 flying hours throughout the year and transported 1,659,578 pounds of cargo and 9,853 personnel to places all over the world. Without the tremendous support reservists from the 910th Airlift Wing receive from their families and employers, this incredible amount of contribution to our nation's defense would not be possible.

In addition to regularly scheduled training missions, the men and women of the 910th continue to respond to the terrorist attacks of 9-11, flying homeland defense missions in support of Operation Noble Eagle and with the activation of 75 members of the 910th Security Forces Squadron.

Also, the seven full-time and 182 drilling reservists assigned to the Naval Reserve Center on base contributed to the nation's defense by mobilizing 12 reservists in support of Operations Enduring Freedom and Noble Eagle. Of these twelve, ten were deployed to the Persian Gulf region and two were assigned homeland security duties. The Naval and Marine Corps reservists at the base conduct on-going training with Air Force reservists such as weapons qualification, heavy equipment operation and Chemical/Biological Warfare protection training.

Youngstown Air Reserve Station's economic impact infuses over \$86 million (up \$13 million since 2001) into the local economy. The base continues to run an environmentally friendly operation utilizing a nearly \$2 million de-icing pad project that allows for the proper control of de-icing fluid runoff during de-icing operations. Recently, an indoor hazardous materials storage and recycling facility was built for nearly \$600,000 by a local contractor as a drop-off point and collection center at the air station. This is in addition to several million dollars in other military construction projects completed over the last few years here at Youngstown Air Reserve Station.

The pride, attitude, and integrity of the over 2,000 airmen, sailors, Marine Reservists, civilians, and contractors of the Youngstown Air Reserve Station lead the way in our country's defense.

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Factoid from the War on Terrorism: Over the skies of America, more than 15,000 airmen from the Air National Guard, Air Force Reserve and active Air Force participating in Operation Noble Eagle have flown more than 26,400 fighter, tanker and airborne early warning sorties in the past 13 months, including more than 325 combat air patrol diverts and alert scrambles in response to actual events.